

Dr. Shuddhananda
Bharati

Vivekanandam

Pearls of wisdom of Vivekananda

A short play

The Story of our Independence

(Namathu Suthanthira Kathai)



ASSA
Editions

Editor's Notes

Vivekananda is the flame of the wisdom of India; he explained the inner power of our land to the world by his bold speeches on philosophy in England as well as in America in his 30th year. His elevating thoughts, the sparkle of his vigorous speeches, his words of wisdom and the true greatness of his renunciation are included in this book.

Shuddhananda Bharati had written this short book interestingly, to inspire the readers with the sentiments of Vivekananda. Those wanting to enact it on stage can edit it to suitable length if needed. This book will be of great use to those practising emotional oratorical skills.

Hail Vivekananda!

A warm thank you to Ms. Gowri Ramaswamy for her beautiful translation. Ms. Gowri Ramaswamy has, with her meticulous work, been able to express fully the thoughts of Kavi Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati. We have included in this book a short essay, *The Story of our Independence*.

It is a real pleasure for me to present *Vivekanandam* and *The Story of our Independence* to you. We have much to learn from this wonderful text! Thank you to Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted *Vivekanandam* and *The Story of our Independence* to us. With the blessing of *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*.

Christian Piaget

Courage!

*The night is through,
The chain of slavery
It is already broken -
I am full of courage!*

*Peace in the morning,
A golden sun rises
Like a lion superhuman
To accomplish my dream.*

*A hopeful smile,
Docile as a child
Who plays in the infinite
With a fiery star.*

*My journey is over;
I enjoy time;
The universe is my nest;
Of eternal spring.*

Song of Unity

*Unite. Unite, Unite, Oh Souls
Unite and play your roles
Unite in mind, unite in heart
Unite in whole, unite in part
Like words and tunes and sense in song
Let East and West unite and live long
Trees are many; the grove is one
Branches are many; tree is one
Shores are many; sea is one
Limbs are many; body is one
Bodies are many; self is one
Stars are many; sky is one
Flowers are many; honey is one
Pages are many; book is one
Thoughts are many; thinker is one
Tastes are many; taster is one
Actors are many; the drama is one
Nations are many; the world is one
Religions are many; Truth is one
The wise are many; Wisdom is one
Beings are many; breath is one
Classes are many; college is one
Find out this One behind the many
Then life shall enjoy peaceful harmony.*

Peace Anthem

*Peace for all, peace for all
For all the countries peace
Joy for all, joy for all
For all the nations joy
A rosy morning peace
A smiling summer joy (Peace for all)*

*All for each and each for all
This is the golden rule
Life and Light and Love for all
For all that live our love (Peace for all)*

*Work and food and clothes for all
Equal status for all
Health and home and school for all
A happy world for all (Peace for all)*

*No idle rich, no more beggars
All are equal workers
No more tears, no more fears
The heart is full of cheers (Peace for all)*

*No atom scare, no fat mammon
No room for war demon
Like leaves in trees, like rays in the sun
We are one communion,
One Divine communion (Peace for all)*

*The good in you is good for all
Your life is life for all
The God in you is God for all
Your love is love for all (Peace for all)*

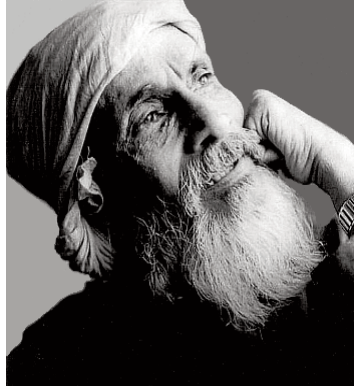
*For he or she or it or rest
This collective life is best
This Universal Life is best
North or South, or East or West (Peace for all)*

*Peace for plants and birds and beasts
For hills and streams and woods
Peace in Home - land and air and sea
Dynamic peace we see*

Peace for all, peace for all

Immortal Peace for All





Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

Presentation of Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

11th May 1897 – 7th March 1990

The wise one to the cosmic age

Although more than 90 years old, in his school in the south of India, *Kavi Yogi Maharishi* (great divine visionary, wise poet), Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati worked like a young man of twenty. When he was asked his age, he answered: "My age is Courage!" The Yogi wrote several hundred works in English, French, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Sanskrit; five thousand songs, and fifteen hundred poems in French. The magnum opus of the man conscious of the presence of God in him, *Bharata Shakti*, (in 50,000 verses) described his ideal: only One Humanity living in communion with only One God in a transformed world! *Bharata Shakti* is a monumental and unique work. The Yogi depicts the essence of all the religions, of all the prophets and saints, all the approaches of yoga and all the cultures on an allegorical fabric. It is a book for any age which all spiritual researchers and all nations should read and meditate on. His commitment is summarized in his book celebrating his life, *Pilgrim Soul*. The three poems mentioned in the opening express perfectly his ideal. His mantra, *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*, nourishes our souls and guides our steps toward the inner joy *Ananda*. It means: The light of Grace and power of the pure supreme Almighty bless us of peace, happiness and prosperity! Let the beauty and greatness of soul of Dr. Bharati Shuddhananda bloom and scent the entire Earth of its divine message and his spiritual and unifying benefactor!

Editions ASSA

Characters of the play

1. Vivekananda
2. Brahmananda
3. Premananda
4. Ramakrishnananda
5. Niranjanananda
6. Abhedananda
7. Shivananda and other disciples
8. Sarada Devi
9. The halo of Paramahansa
10. Mother India
11. Bhaskara Sethupati
12. Divan
13. Servants, guards, soldiers etc.
14. Azhagiya Singha Perumal
15. Singaravelu
16. The guard
17. Mrs. George Hale
18. Dr. John Henry Barrows
19. Chakravarti
20. The representatives of the missionaries of all religions
21. Goodwin
22. Mr. Sevier
23. Mrs. Sevier

Part one
Vivekanandam

1. Severe penance of the disciples

Brahmananda (Rahal), Niranjanananda, Saradananda, Ramakrishnananda (Sashi), Advaitananda (Gopal), Shivananda (Tharak) and Abhedananda (Kali Maharaj) resided, under the leadership of Vivekananda, renouncing everything, in a small house near the tomb of Paramahansa in Baranagore, leading a life of strict discipline. They spent their lives eating what they got, living without worries, contemplating on philosophy, researching different religions, singing, worshipping, meditating, learning, listening, and teaching the greatness and wisdom of Gurudev to the visitors.

A devotee, Surendra Nath Mitra (Suresh) helped them liberally, according to their needs. The mission at Baranagore has become the famous Belur Mutt now, due to his efforts. The householder's friends like Ram, Balaram, Mahendra and Girish came quite often to the meetings and helped them as much as possible. The disciples wore a small piece of saffron cloth. When going out they wore a longer saffron cloth at the waist and another on the shoulders. They lived on alms; cooked rice and greens were enough for them. They concentrated their minds on nurturing the soul and serving the teacher. They shared the same needs as our teacher, keeping their souls as their only companion and wandering around our sacred land.

At night, they lit the camp fire. Sitting around it, they meditated, sang and talked about the glory of their teacher.

This group of people went to Antpur at the request of the mother of Premananda. They took the vow to live like Christ, doing true service to humanity. Ramakrishnananda cooked food for all like a mother. In Baranagore, there is an urn with Paramahansa's bones in front of his portrait. Disciples sit in front of this and sing devotional songs.

2. One who renounces completely

Pure happiness

The flame lighting on its own

Personification of truth, Aum – true teacher!

Oh, the consort of Uma, bestower of spiritual powers to

The followers, pursuing the path of

Devotion, knowledge and action.

To rescue our mind from

Getting destroyed,

Grant us the boon of holding your lotus feet!

Oh, God, let your spiritual play

Induce happiness everywhere

Growing day by day in this world!

Vivekananda – Hail to the great teacher! What is our gratitude to the kind teacher who loves us more than a mother? Only these – pure renunciation, contented soul, meditation, discipline and spreading his life and gospels in the world! The children of Paramahansa, our teacher though dead lives among us still! Let us use every atom of

our body for the service of our teacher, who was born with all the glorious qualities of such great people as Buddha, Jesus Christ, Mohammed Nabi, Chaithanya and Adi Shankara combined. Let us seek God enthusiastically, like Vivekanandam.

All: Respected sir, can't we too accompany you?

Vivekananda: The soul is an independent object; I too want to wander independently for some time in spiritual happiness; this is the call of God. You too travel to different places as you like, resolving to beg to survive. Let us wander like Buddha, Shankara and Jesus Christ, with everlasting joy!

All: Sir, please bless us with good counsel; let it be a fervent teaching about the path of renunciation!

Vivekananda: Renunciation is unique, great; oh, ascetics, give up resolves, rituals, bother of living and likes and dislikes; find God everywhere; look into yourself realising, 'I'm the Self'; have inner strength wherever you go; drink the wisdom springing from pure hearts; keep your hearts pure, making sure the desire for wealth and arrogance do not touch them, wandering freely in the pure, bright, cosmic space. Remove bondages, like happiness, sadness, the desire for wealth, power, women, good and evil, iron or gold, all are ties only; all have to be cut down; those controlling desires are the true warriors. One wins the world by conquering oneself. Those who sow will reap a harvest. Do not confuse your mind with the concept of good and evil! Know thyself, oh ascetic, you are a free soul beyond the confines of all human qualities. Proclaim loudly, 'Aum that is existent'. Remove the difference of outlook between

genders; be resolute that 'I'm a Self which is neither man or woman'! Only Self exists; it is its own companion; remove all other bondages; Self has no name or shape. Illusion is the imagination of Self; it creates names and shapes; do not imprison your Self by getting trapped in illusory vacuum! Search for the true Self by concentrating inside yourself; do not waste your time searching in books and temples! All those ties like desire, fear, earth, heaven, the ultimate release from life, the pleasure of enjoyment, love of one's body, lust, anger, miserliness and infatuation should be shaken off; leave the body to act on its own! Accept praise as well as criticism with equanimity! Do not keep anything for yourself! You do not need a home, a prison actually, for yourself; you are better to roam like a spiritual lion in the home of the world with sky as roof; let your life be lived like the free flowing, clear waters of the River Ganges! Oh ascetic, do not heed to the praises or to the censure of others! You first attain spiritual happiness and then, help others to realise it; remove the darkness of ignorance by lighting up the flame of knowledge! You lead a life of such detachment as long as you are alive; 'you are me', 'I'm he', 'I'm me' – realise this! Oh ascetic friends, let us go now!

All: (Sing)

Oh, pure free man, our preceptor,
A flame of spiritual bliss

We have lighted the flame of everlasting peace;
Putting attachments with roots in the fire.

We have dismissed illusions as dreams;
Donned the garb of asceticism brightly;

Your loving friendship removed selfishness from our hearts;

Learnt the truth of ‘Aum! It is in existence’

Vivekananda: Let us take leave now.

Aum! I’m Self, Brahmaivaham.

3. Meditation at Kanyakumari (1892)

(Vivekananda, after wandering all over India as a sage, holding a stick and a begging bowl in hand, arrives at Kanyakumari at last. He contemplates, looking at the Indian Ocean and plans in his mind of making a journey to western countries to spread the religion of Vedanta).

Scene of meditation

For a wandering ascetic, the land he walks is a book; he is an encyclopaedia of experiences! Now, I have reached Kanyakumari! Oh! My teacher, my ascetic resolution has ended. How many visions appear before me? How many learned men’s friendship? How have I wandered without fear, holding the begging bowl, reciting, ‘Narayana Hari’ and subsisting on the alms? Is it not the dream of asceticism kindled in me by my preceptor?

In Benaras, where Buddha and Shankara imparted knowledge once, I met the great sage, Thrilinga Paramahansa; in Sarnath, I sat with determination at the place where Buddha explained his *Dharma Chakra Pravarthana Sutra*.

Part two

The Story of our Independence

(Namathu Suthanthira Kathai)

1. Our India

The struggle for freedom, which started in 1847, ended in 1947. (It was in the year 1847 that Nana Sahib and Ali Mullah Khan joined together in Brahmavartha (now the name of the city is Bithoor in Uttar Pradesh in India) and vowed to work for Indian independence and started to amass war weapons and an army. Ali Mullah travelled to Europe and even went to Russia to get arms). In these hundred years the sacrificial flames burnt brightly. So many great people gave up their lives in this flame. We are reaping the benefits of their great sacrifices.

India is not merely a land; it means a sacred land where great people live.

Great benevolence for the world flourishes in India
All religions converge together in bright India
Those who are oppressed get refuge in pure India
India, a heaven on earth – live long!
Great India!

2. Land of wisdom

India is a land of wisdom, of the upright and just. *Bhagavad Gita*, *Gita* and *Thirukkural* were born here. This country

attained great glory among the nations of the world. The flag of Tamil kings flew high until the time of Ashoka.

3. We lost freedom

Then the flag mast was shaken. The land became divided again. There were divisions, infighting and differences. Today one was king, tomorrow another. Every king demarcated his kingdom, became arrogant and greedy, attacked other countries and created chaos. This became chronic during the reign of Prithviraj. His enemy Jayachandra turned into a traitor and invited Mohammed Gori to help him fight against Prithviraj. On that day itself India's freedom was jeopardised, the country was looted, its honour ravished. With the help of sword and arson the alien powers subjugated India.

4. Decline of society

Along with the loss of faith in *Vedas*, the society too crumbled. Society became just a skeleton; there was no soul inside; rituals increased, caste dominated and there was nothing to bind the conflicting elements. Where only one ancient religion existed, various divisions cropped up, caste divisions increased; even normal social intercourse among people of different castes became difficult. Hindu society was thus completely destroyed. It was easy for the Muslims who had physical might and a disciplined religious order to rule over the weakened India. All the Mughal kings, Allauddin Khilji, Babur, Humayun,

Mughal Emperor Akbar, Jehangir and Aurangazeb ruled India with a strong hand. Islam spread over India during their reign. Among these kings only Akbar and Dara had tolerance towards Hindu religion. They gave equal respect to *Quran* and *Upanishad*. Hindus were reduced to a lowly place in society and were subjected to pay special taxes too.

But Indian blood did not remain sleeping for long. Through brave persons like Rana Prathap Singh, Durga Das, Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh, it rebelled and the struggle for independence started. The alien rule was abolished soon by their bravery. These efforts left deep scars in the society. Many Hindus were converted to the Muslim religion. They now started to consider Hindus as their enemies and wanted a separate nation for themselves, so Pakistan was created. But in actual fact Hindus and Muslims have so much in common; they could have lived on as one people. The Muslim culture too encouraged fine arts, and music. The Government introduced changes; helped Hindi language to grow and become the national language. The Muslim culture has been assimilated in our society.

5. Illusion

The British first started as a trading company in India; then slowly took root with religious conversions; grew up using the divisions among the native rulers, prospered with trickery and ultimately hoisting their flag, the Union Jack, firmly in the Indian soil with the backing of their

mother country. Though we had gained much from English rule – a rich international language to communicate with the outside world, and many modern inventions that allow access to today’s world, our culture and natural talents were completely destroyed. English rule made us slaves; a dead people walking on earth. All our treasures were robbed and transported to alien countries by rail, ship and air. While Indians suffered from famine and starvation and became weak and perished, the aliens became prosperous using our wealth and enslaved us further. Railways, telegraph, ship, suits, hat, and English education, all these are superficial. Our culture and arts were slowly eroded, eaten away by the alien culture and the country began to die slowly.

6. The independence struggle

The great patriot Nana Sahib came to the forefront to save the country from this state. He brought together Hindus and Muslims, amassed huge quantities of arms by sending patriots secretly around the country, then started to wage a unique war against the colonisers. Even soldiers from the south took part in this war. The war erupted like a volcano and frightened the British. But soon the events took the usual turn. Traitors abetted with the aliens and the struggle of patriots was crushed. If the Sikhs and Zamindars had not helped the British and stayed on the side of Nana Sahib, the English rule would have come to an end even then. Nana Sahib , Rani Laxmi Bai, Tatyia Tope, Kunwar Singh, Ahmed Maulvi, Mulla Sahib, Bhabhadur Shah – all these patriots of the time should be hon-

oured in the annals of world history. They sacrificed their lives for duty and the country.

7. Growth of evil

After this, the dream of independence became a prey to repression. Though the edict of Queen Victoria claimed that all citizens were equal, in reality Indians were treated differently from the British. Indians were mere slaves while the British were their masters and rulers; no one was left with any doubt about this. Other religions started to spread rapidly. Many Indians became infatuated with white man's culture. Many evils spread in the Hindu society – caste divisions, religious intolerance, widows' sufferings, destruction of inner wisdom and a craze for English, neglect of mother tongue etc.

Order online, [order this book](#)



Editions ASSA
Grand'Rue 180 – 1454 L'Auberson – Switzerland
Phone : +41 (0) 24 454 47 07
Fax : +41 (0) 24 454 47 77
Email : info@editions-assa.ch
Web : www.editions-assa.ch
